

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

I-283-001

The project is explained well in the information distributed. However, I question the conclusion that the best alternative is the power line proposed. Per the study, since the primary need areas are Rochester and La Crosse, why not build natural gas fired generating capability in those areas and eliminate all the cost and environmental issues associated with a coal fired power source from the Twin Cities transmitting power to Rochester and La Crosse? The carbon emissions from a natural gas plant would be less than half from the coal plant and our country has over a 100 year supply of natural gas. In addition, all the environmental impact of the proposed power lines would be eliminated. A natural gas plant could be built in much less calendar time than required for the power line.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Duane Tiede

Representing (Optional): Impacted Landowner

Mailing Address: 6s521 Sussex Rd.

City: Naperville **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60540

Daytime Phone (Optional): (630) 640 -8212

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-283-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☒ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-283-002

My farm is located at 46998 170th Ave. Zumbrota, MN 55992 which is a few miles southwest of Zumbrota, MN. The proposed 345kva power line siting is directly across my farm with the power line less than 200 ft from the house. It also runs parallel and directly adjacent to the farm drive and will be less than 100 ft. from the garage and machine shed. The farmhouse and land are rented now but I am very concerned that the proposed power line routing will make the house uninhabitable and un-rentable.

I-283-003

The poles through the agricultural land will also create more obstacles for the land operator. The proposed routing will require easement on over 13 acres of tillable land on a farm that only has 130 acres of cropland.

I-283-004

Throughout the entire almost 150 miles of proposed power line routing there are two or more alternative routes shown except for about 2.5 miles that includes my farm. Why is there not an alternative routing for this area? It is my understanding that State codes require alternate routes be identified.

There is another residential site less than 1/2 mile west of my farm where the proposed line runs very close to the house also. It seems that an alternative routing on my south property line or further south would alleviate all of these problems

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

I-283-005

The most sensitive resources in the Project are the people living near the power line. The potential danger from EMF radiation and the safety concern with power lines subject to failure from ice storms in Southern Minnesota's climate make it very unsafe to locate a high voltage power line that close to residential housing and other buildings and driveways.

I-283-006

The second major issue is the carbon produced by the coal fired plant and the carbon generated during the building of the power line.

I-283-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-283-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-283-006

Your comment has been noted. Cumulative Impacts will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? None

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☒ Radio or television interference
- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-283-007 | Location of other power lines on the property. There is an existing high power transmission line crossing this property that will be crossed with this new proposed line.

I-283-007

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.